



## **TWO CONNECTICUT ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS FINISH IN THE TOP 10 INTERNATIONALLY**

14 Connecticut teams attended the World Finals May 24-27, 2023 at Michigan State University

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**WESTON, CT, June 1, 2023** – Imagine trying to build an original team-made “ship”... a vehicle that can transport team members across a gym floor and reclaim stolen treasure, build a Rube Goldberg style contraption to complete automated tasks in sequence or create a humorous performance about a dramatic character that overreacts to common events. These are some of the complex problems that students from over 40 states and 20 countries came together to solve last month at Michigan State University.

Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind (CTOM) is proud to announce that two Connecticut teams finished in the top 10 internationally within their problem and division. Out of hundreds of teams, The Connecticut team from Charter Oak Academy in West Hartford finished in 7th place for Problem 3, Division 1 and the team representing Stamford Parent Teacher Council in Stamford finished in 10th place for Problem 4, Division 2. In addition, a second elementary team from Charter Oak Academy in West Hartford finished 11th in Problem 5, Division 1.

“Odyssey is an international creative problem-solving program that engages students at every age,” explained CTOM Board President Mimi Owen, ““I’m thrilled with the creativity and ingenuity these teams have shown, and so proud of their impressive showing at the World Finals!”

The CTOM program offers a hybrid learning environment that engages students through the integration of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), while teaching public speaking, collaboration and leadership. Students from elementary through high school have been working since September in teams of up to 7 students under the guidance of a volunteer coach to develop a long-term problem solution and practice spontaneous problem-solving to compete in this event. For forty-two years, this unique program has helped Connecticut teachers, parents and coaches generate excitement in their students and team members. By tapping into creativity, and encouraging imaginative paths to unique solutions, students learn 21st Century skills needed to succeed in the competition, as well as in school and throughout life.

### **Winning CTOM teams included:**

Problem 3 – Division 1 – 7th Place

Charter Oak Academy, West Hartford, CT

Coach - Michele Hadlock

Problem 4 – Division 2 – 10th Place

Stamford Public Education Foundation, Stamford, CT

Coach – Subha Pandalai

Problem 5 – Division 1 – 11th Place

Charter Oak Academy, West Hartford, CT

Coach - Michele Hadlock

Odyssey of the Mind teams develop a solution to one of five Long-Term Problems in categories such as constructing a vehicle, creating a new take on a classic, building a balsa wood structure, solving a mechanical dilemma or crafting a performance. Importantly, there's a strict rule that the team accepts no outside assistance, which means that they cannot ask for or receive help, even from their coaches, teachers or parents. The solution is 100% created by the students.

A complete list of participating schools and teams from the Connecticut State Competition, as well as competition scores, can be found at [www.ctom.org](http://www.ctom.org).

Additional background may be found at [www.ctom.org](http://www.ctom.org) and [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com).



Charter Oak Academy Odyssey of the Mind Participants

Row 1: Coach Michele Hadlock, Olivia Smith, Atalie Hou, Stella Guggina, and Ezekiel Collard

Row 2: Santiago Galvez, Nina Mattamana, Haylee Donahue,

Row 3: Beatrice Ahern, John Cowin, Ayan Shrestha, Zoey Schuman, Hadley Hamilton-Moras

Row 4: Noah Canfijn and Andwele Adekanbi

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